



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

TEXTBOOK OF PATHOLOGY—With Clinical Application—Second Edition—Stanley L. Robbins, M.D., Professor of Pathology, Boston University School of Medicine; Associate Director of the Mallory Institute of Pathology, Boston, Massachusetts; Lecturer, Harvard Medical School and Tufts University School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pa., 1962. 1190 pages, \$19.00.

This is the first revision of a successful textbook of pathology that was first published in 1957. The book is designed to present general and special pathology as they are usually studied by undergraduate medical students, and this is accomplished in a concise readable fashion, with an appropriate number of well-chosen gross and photomicrographic illustrations of excellent quality. A relatively small number of references represent classical and recent writings that elaborate upon the subject material. A useful feature of the bibliography is a one-phrase comment concerning the nature of each reference.

Chapters on special pathology constitute about 2/3 of the book and include as special topics "Diseases of Infancy and Childhood" and "The Oral Cavity." These presentations are predominantly descriptive and deal with causes and mechanisms without much discussion of different points of view. Paragraphs on the clinical course of a number of conditions are included.

The book refers to a large number of diseases, so many that very brief presentations are the rule. This is perhaps the principal criticism of this as a reference book. As a textbook it is easy to read and presents an up-to-date view of pathology.

ALVIN J. COX, M.D.

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CIBA FOUNDATION STUDY GROUP NO. 9—Progesterone and the Defence Mechanism of Pregnancy, in honour of Dr. G. W. Corner. G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P., and Margaret P. Cameron, M.A., Editors for the Ciba Foundation. Little, Brown and Company, 34 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., 1961. 108 pages, \$2.50.

This is an exceedingly interesting report of a symposium on progesterone held last year under the auspices of the Ciba Foundation. The chairman was Dr. George M. Corner, the principal participants were A. Csapo, J. Zander, D. M. Needham, H. Kuriyama and C. S. Russell. Many other well known persons were present to take part in the discussion.

Csapo's subject was "Defence Mechanisms of Pregnancy." Evidence of various types was presented to support the concept that placental progesterone is a key substance in a defense mechanism which controls the maintenance and termination of human pregnancy and that at least a part of this endocrine control is due to a local effect upon the myometrium. This was a superb presentation and provoked many interesting questions.

Zander ably discussed the "Relationship Between Progesterone

Production in the Human Placenta and the Fetus," and showed that the fetus is an important site for the metabolism of progesterone produced by the placenta.

Dorothy Needham discussed the "Molecular Aspects of the Contractile Mechanism of the Uterus and its Changes During Pregnancy." A comparison was given of the uterine contractile mechanism (myosin, action and actomyosin) with those of the corresponding proteins from skeletal muscle.

Hiroshi Kuriyama described "Recent Studies on the Electrophysiology of the Uterus." His studies concerned the membrane and action potentials in the uterine myometrium and were made at the cellular level. The effects of various ions, hormones and physical alterations such as stretch and temperature were described. The experiments suggested that progesterone exerted its pregnancy maintenance effect by increasing the threshold to stimulus, causing hyperpolarization and blocking propagation.

The clinical side of the picture was presented by Professor C. S. Russell of Sheffield who posed many clinical facts which he felt were incompatible with the mechanisms suggested by the experimentalists.

There followed a very interesting and enlightening discussion by the essayists and by other authorities in attendance.

Anyone interested in the physiology of reproduction and/or in obstetrics would be well repaid to read this excellent symposium.

D. G. MORTON, M.D.

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PSYCHOANALYSIS IN GROUPS—Alexander Wolf and Emanuel K. Schwartz. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N. Y., 1962. 326 pages, \$8.00.

This book on group therapy or what the authors call "Psychoanalysis in Groups," describes quite adequately what takes place in a group of patients undergoing psychotherapy. Objection might be raised to the use of the term psychoanalysis in describing group therapy, as the term has generally been restricted to a special type of treatment carried on by a qualified psychoanalyst with one patient and involving intensive and extensive exploration of the patient's unconscious mind as revealed through the transference neurosis. Because Drs. Wolf and Schwartz employ in their groups certain of the techniques used in psychoanalysis, such as free association and dream analysis, they seem to believe that treatment in groups is essentially the same as in individual psychoanalysis. This would be disputed by many analysts. The type of therapy they describe is more generally called psychoanalytic group psychotherapy.

In the first chapter on "Basic Design" the authors give a good exposition of group therapy, explaining how it works and giving in some detail the advantages of group therapy over individual therapy. They describe the techniques they